



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

TRANSATLANTIC PROGRAMS CENTER
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. Box 2250
Winchester, Virginia 22604-1450

August 25, 1997

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Directorate of Contracting

SUBJECT: Preliminary Construction Specifications on the Internet

Dear Sir/Madam:

During the Transatlantic Programs Center's (TAC) Acquisition Reform Day II on April 24, 1997, several contractors attending the seminar indicated the technical specifications in our construction solicitations contained requirements for items that are either outdated or for which technologically advanced, commercially available, products exist. Generally, the contractors thought our customers would receive a better project at a lower cost if interested offerors are allowed to comment on the technical specifications before the contracting officer issues the solicitation.

Based on follow-on contractor discussions to clarify concerns, we have decided to place sample projects on the TAC Internet Home Page. We will publish projects that are either under construction or which have been recently completed. Since the specifications in our projects vary by country, we will place sample projects by country on the Internet, e.g. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Egypt. We plan to update the sample projects at least annually. Our Internet site will contain an E-mail address to which you may submit suggested changes. If approved, we will incorporate your suggestions into future solicitations.

You may access our Home Page at <http://144.3.144.33/>. Within the next 30 days our Home Page address should change to <http://www.tac.usace.army.mil>. We will publish the sample projects immediately. Suggest you bookmark our Home Page so you can routinely check it for specifications and other contracting-related information.


As you likely know, we develop project specifications from the Corps of Engineers Guide Specifications (CEGS). The CEGS are updated quarterly, by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). The NIBS are directed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Engineering and Support Center. The CEGS are available from the NIBS Home Page

at <http://nibs.org/ccb> or from the Huntsville Home Page at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>. Our engineers use these two web sites to incorporate industry practices and determine product availability. Additionally, you may submit your suggestions on best commercial practices directly to NIBS or Huntsville for incorporation in the CEGS if approved.

To give you increased visibility into our contracting process, we are exploring publishing construction specifications for industry comment immediately after completion of our bidability, constructability and operability (BCO) review. This will allow you to see the specifications prior to the issue of the solicitation. However, we need to alleviate host-nation sensitivities before taking this step.

This process is another step in our ongoing reinvention of contracting. We are endeavoring to reach out to industry to ask for your suggestions and recommendations to provide world-class contracting services and facilities to our customers. Since you are a stakeholder in this process, we look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



William R. Brewer, Jr.
Director, Contracting